

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

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Appendix

The First Accusations That the United States Had Encouraged the Revolt of the French Generals in Algeria Were Printed in Soviet Newspapers and Broadcast by the Moscow Radio

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

HON. HARRIS B. McDOWELL, JR.

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 1961

Mr. McDOWELL. Mr. Speaker, the first accusations that the United States had encouraged the revolt of the French generals in Algeria were printed in Soviet newspapers and broadcast by the Moscow radio.

The New York Times reports this morning that—

Allen W. Dulles, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, checked with his subordinates and gave an unqualified guarantee that none of his agents had given any encouragement to the rebels in France, Spain, Algeria, or elsewhere.

After consulting Mr. Dulles, Secretary of State Dean Rusk assured the French Ambassador, Herve Alphand, last week that no U.S. representatives had been involved in any way with the rebels.

When the rumors persisted, he repeated this assurance yesterday to the Ambassador.

Today Mr. Dulles departed from his custom and issued a personal denial of reports that some of his officials had been involved.

We, and the world, were assured by Mr. Dulles that—

The reports in Pravda, Izvestia, and the French press are all without basis in fact.

In view of the continuing rumors it is my belief that the Congress must take steps to end them once and for all, and to give assurances to everyone concerned that the United States was not involved, nor were any of its agents involved, in the revolt of the French generals which fortunately collapsed.

I am convinced that the Congress can no longer shirk its responsibility to inform itself fully on intelligence matters.

On April 27 Senator EUGENE MCCARTHY introduced for himself and Senators ANDERSON, MORSE, CLARK, MITCHELL, BURDICK, BARTLETT, and McNAMARA, and perhaps others, Senate Joint Resolution 77 to establish a Joint Committee on Foreign Information and Intelligence. In introducing the measure Senator McCarthy told his colleagues that—

The joint resolution is not, directly or indirectly, meant to express any criticism of this administration or of any past administration, but basically, to reflect what I consider to be a proper responsibility on the part of the Members of the U.S. Congress to accept responsibility in this field, to be informed, and to be involved when major policy decisions are called for.

And Senator MCCARTHY added the following incontrovertible point—

Under the Constitution, Congress is called upon to participate in a declaration of war. In modern times, war is not declared. Congress, therefore, has a continuing and very substantial responsibility for policy decisions with regard to the cold war or conducting foreign policy by any other means.

The measure introduced by Senator MCCARTHY is similar in purpose and substance to my own House Joint Resolution 250. I am in complete agreement with Senator MCCARTHY when he says that—

It is my hope the joint resolution will be considered and, in some form, adopted, so that the machinery and procedures which are the constitutional responsibility of Congress may be exercised.

I include here, as part of my remarks, two articles from the New York Times of May 2, 1961:

PARIS RUMORS ON CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY—DENIES FROM U.S. DENIALS, SPECULATION FOLLOWS. AGENCY ALLEGES RAYOLT.

(By Thomas F. Brady)

PARIS, May 1.—Now that the French mutiny of the generals may be a thing of the past, the question whether the United States helped save the day for President de Gaulle is perhaps less important than what is believed in France, in North Africa and elsewhere about the U.S. role in the events. Former Gen. Maurice Challe, leader of the mutiny, hoped for U.S. support and said so publicly, but President Kennedy quickly sent a message pledging full support to President de Gaulle.

Immediately after the collapse of the mutiny, President Kennedy publicly expressed his satisfaction and congratulated President de Gaulle. The position of the U.S. Government was never in doubt.

Systemic rumor circulation

These facts have not, however, prevented the wide circulation, and at least partial acceptance here and in North Africa, of rumors that General Challe and his fellow mutineers had received specific encouragement from U.S. intelligence agents.

Emphatic official denials from U.S. authorities have not put a stop to the rumors.

No French official has denied them. French comment has been decidedly equivocal. At a news conference Saturday night in Algiers, Louis Joxe, French Minister for Algeria, said—

"I do not know whether foreign agents encouraged the insurrectional movement, or whether those responsible for the coup profited from foreign subsidies. There are persons sending French money to Algeria at the moment, to help me buy. I have no intention to try to find out whether the insurgents received foreign aid."

Source is equivocal

The source of the rumors is difficult to determine. Some observers point to them to Communists, others to the military French authorities.

A dispatch to the Observer in London said that the French government was "not at all sure" that the rumors were not the work of the French.

entourage and perhaps inspired by him, is to blame the Americans. Repeated American denials that any American military or civilian officials encouraged General Challe's rebellion have not succeeded in preventing French official spokesmen from telling journalists there must have been some unofficial American backing.

The rumors, which include at least one written report circulating here, repeated speculation in the French press, a dispatch from Washington to the Tunisian weekly Afrique-Action and widespread speculation in leftwing circles, boil down to this:

President Kennedy is said to have reacted as he did because he had learned of encouragement to the mutineers by the Central Intelligence Agency, which is said to have become a reactionary state-within-a-state in the United States.

U.S. agents are said to have encouraged the mutiny either because they feared communism in the ranks of the Algerian Rebel National Liberation Front, with which President de Gaulle is expected to negotiate Algerian independence, or because they hoped to precipitate the downfall of President de Gaulle and thus eliminate his opposition to integration of the forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

MEETINGS WITH AGENTS ALLEGED

U.S. sympathy for the movement is said to have begun as early as last December, when Jacques Soustelle, a former Governor General of Algeria and a foe of President de Gaulle's policies, was reported to have had lunch with Richard M. Bissell, Jr., a CIA official.

At a meeting in Madrid on April 12 or 13, a U.S. agent is said to have told Gen. Raoul Salan, one of the mutineers, that the United States would recognize a new government in France within 48 hours after its successful establishment if there were no attack on Tunisia or Morocco.

The speculation does not take cognizance of the fact that former General Challe spent nearly a year as a North Atlantic Treaty Organization commander at the Fontainebleau headquarters near here. He undoubtedly heard frequent and bitter criticism of President de Gaulle by allied officers who disagreed with his policies on NATO.

The possibility is cited that M. Challe was guilty of wishful thinking and believed the attitudes of the military leaders reflected the political thinking of the allied governments.

No matter what the source of the rumors may be, no matter how false they may be, their existence is a fact. The credence they have gained, despite U.S. denials, is considered a serious threat to French-United States relations and to the prestige of the United States among the Algerian nationalists and in North Africa, in general.

The equivocation with which French officials have treated the rumors has been regarded as a major factor in their propagation.

UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED BY PARIS RUMORS
(By Wallace Carroll)

WASHINGTON, May 1.—The U.S. Government is becoming concerned over the persistence of newspaper reports and rumors in France that someone from this country encouraged the April 24 meeting of French generals in Algeria.

The resulting suspicion and resentment toward the French, it is feared here, may

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